# George G. Vega Yon, Ph.D.

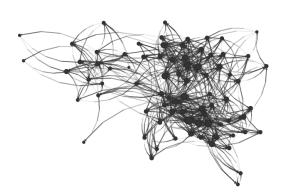
+1 (six two six) 381 8171 Mobile e-mail g.vegayon@gmail.com

website ggvy.cl

Code github.com/gvegayon

Linkedin www.linkedin.com/in/georgevegayon/ ORCID

orcid.org/0000-0002-3171-0844



### **Education**

### Ph.D. in Biostatistics (with a concentration in Statistical Computing)

2020

University of Southern California, USA

Dissertation title: "Essays on Bioinformatics and Social Network Analysis: Statistical and Computational Methods for Complex Systems"

### M.Sc. in Social Sciences (with a concentration in Economics)

2016

California Institute of Technology, USA

### **Master in Economics and Public Policy**

2011

Universidad Adolfo Ibáñez, Chile

### **BS. in Business Administration** (with a minor in Political Science)

2011

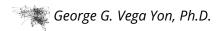
Universidad Adolfo Ibáñez, Chile

### **Awards**

Top paper award, International Communication Association	2022
Travel Grant, Society of Young Network Scientist	2019
Fellowship, California Institute of Technology	2014
Honorable Mention (Posters Session) Chilean Economics Society	2012
Scholarship, Universidad Adolfo Ibáñez	2006

# **Major Areas of Research Interest**

Social Networks and Complex Systems **Statistical Computing** Scientific Software Development Non-parametric Statistics Statistical Methods Development



## **Professional Experience**

**University of Utah, November 2021–Present** Division of Epidemiology *Research Assistant Professor*. Division of Population Health Sciences, *Adjunct Assistant Professor*.

**University of Southern California, 2015–November 2021** Department of Preventive Medicine *Research Programmer*. As a senior research staff, I closely collaborate with researchers across the University. Besides providing technical support and educating community members on topics such as High-Performance-Computing and Statistical Computing-onsite workshops and presentations-, I actively contribute to grant-writing, leading research projects, and presenting to funding institutions-including NIH and DoD-and international conferences. Since August 2020, I also serve as a coinstructor for the Introduction to Data Science class of the Department's Master's in Health Data Science program.

**Chilean Pension Supervisor (Pension System Watchdog), August 2011– August 2014** Research Division *Analyst*. My main responsibilities were: Conducting statistical and econometric analysis of the Chilean unemployment insurance, developing scientific software to deal with big data, and serve as a bridge between the IT and Research divisions.

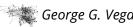
**Nodos Chile Social Network Analysis Ltda., January 2012–January 2014** *Partner*. Founding partner of one of the first applied SNA Consultancy Entrepreneurship in Chile.

**Universidad Adolfo Ibáñez, January 2011–June 2012.** School of Government *Adjunct Professor*. Taught Introductory courses of Economics, Microeconomics and Statistical computing with Stata.

**Chilean Ministry of Social Planning, March 2011–December 2011.** Social Programs Monitoring *Analyst*. Survey and Analysis of the Government social programs supply and supporting the Monitoring Division with the Open-Data Initiative.

### **Peer Reviewed Publications**

- [1] **George G. Vega Yon**. "Power and Multicollinearity in Small Networks: A Discussion of "Tale of Two Datasets: Representativeness and Generalisability of Inference for Samples of Networks" by Krivitsky, Coletti & Hens". To appear in: *Journal of The American Statistical Association* (2023).
- [2] Samin Panahi, Eamonn Kennedy, Ali Roghani, et al. "Veteran Perspectives of Epilepsy Care: Impact of Veteran Satisfaction, Knowledge, and Proactivity". In: *Epilepsy & Behavior* 144 (July 2023), p. 109218. (Visited on 07/20/2023).



- [3] Marie Ouellet, Sadaf Hashimi, and George G. Vega Yon. "Officer Networks and Firearm Behaviors: Assessing the Social Transmission of Weapon-Use". In: Journal of Quantitative Criminology (June 2022). URL: https://doi.org/10.1007/s10940-022-09546-9.
- [4] Marian-Gabriel Hâncean, Matjaž Perc, George G. Vega Yon, et al. "The formation of political discussion networks". In: Royal Society Open Science 9.1 (Jan. 2022), p. 211609. URL: https: //royalsocietypublishing.org/doi/abs/10.1098/rsos.211609.
- [5] George G. Vega Yon, Andrew Slaughter, and Kayla de la Haye. "Exponential random graph models for little networks". In: Social Networks 64 (2021). (Top 10 most downloaded articlessince December 2020-from Social Networks as of June 6, 2021.), pp. 225-238. URL: https: //doi.org/10.1016/j.socnet.2020.07.005.
- [6] George G. Vega Yon. "Building, Importing, and Exporting GEXF Graph Files with rgexf". In: Journal of Open Source Software 6 (June 2021), p. 3456. URL: https://doi.org/10.21105/ joss.03456.
- [7] George G., Vega Yon, Duncan C. Thomas, John Morrison, et al. "Bayesian parameter estimation for automatic annotation of gene functions using observational data and phylogenetic trees". In: PLOS Computational Biology 17.2 (Feb. 2021), pp. 1–35. URL: https://doi.org/10. 1371/journal.pcbi.1007948.
- [8] Thomas W. Valente and George G. Vega Yon. "Diffusion/Contagion Processes on Social Networks". In: Health Education & Behavior 47.2 (2020), pp. 235-248. URL: http://journals. sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/1090198120901497.
- [9] Kayla de la Haye, Heesung Shin, George G. Vega Yon, et al. "Smoking Diffusion through Networks of Diverse, Urban American Adolescents over the High School Period". In: Journal of Health and Social Behavior 60.3 (2019), pp. 362-376. URL: https://doi.org/10.1177/ 0022146519870521.
- [10] Thomas W. Valente, Heather Wipfli, and George G. Vega Yon. "Network influences on policy implementation: Evidence from a global health treaty". In: Social Science and Medicine 222 (2019), 188-197. URL: http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0277953619300085.
- [11] George G. Vega Yon and Brian Quistorff. "parallel: A command for parallel computing". In: The Stata Journal: Promoting communications on statistics and Stata 19.3 (Sept. 2019), pp. 667– 684. URL: http://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/1536867X19874242.
- [12] George G. Vega Yon and Paul Marjoram. "fmcmc: A friendly MCMC framework". In: Journal of Open Source Software 4.39 (July 2019), p. 1427. URL: http://joss.theoj.org/papers/10. 21105/joss.01427.
- [13] George G. Vega Yon and Paul Marjoram. "slurmR: A lightweight wrapper for HPC with Slurm". In: Journal of Open Source Software 4.39 (July 2019), p. 1493. URL: https://joss.theoj.org/ papers/10.21105/joss.01493.



- [14] Brooke M. Bell, Donna Spruijt-Metz, George G. Vega Yon, et al. "Sensing eating mimicry among family members". In: Translational Behavioral Medicine 9.3 (May 2019), pp. 422-430. URL: https://doi.org/10.1093/tbm/ibz051.
- [15] Jorge Fábrega Lacoa and George G. Vega Yon. "El impacto del rating televisivo sobre la actividad en Twitter: evidencia para Chile sobre la base del evento TELETÓN 2012". In: Cuadernos.info 33 (Dec. 2013), pp. 43-52. URL: http://cuadernos.info/index.php/CDI/article/ view/533.

### **Work in Progress and Technical Reports**

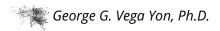
- [1] Jay Love, Cormac R. LaPrete, Theresa R. Sheets, et al. Characterizing Spatiotemporal Variation in Transmission Heterogeneity during the 2022 Mpox Outbreak in the USA. Preprint. Epidemiology, May 2023. (Visited on 07/20/2023).
- [2] Kyosuke Tanaka and George G. Vega Yon. "Imaginary Network Motifs: Structural Patterns of False Positives and Negatives in Social Networks". 2022.
- [3] George G. Vega Yon, Mary Jo Pugh, and Thomas W. Valente. Discrete Exponential-Family Models for Multivariate Binary Outcomes. Nov. 2022. arXiv: 2211 . 00627 [cs, stat]. (Visited on 11/02/2022).
- [4] George G.. Vega Yon, Duncan C. Thomas, John Morrison, et al. "Modeling Gene Functional Evolution using Sufficient Statistics". 2021.
- [5] George G. Vega Yon. Capital Necesario Unitario (CNU): Cálculo e Introducción Del Módulo de Stata CNU. Working Papers 57. Superintendencia de Pensiones, Aug. 2014. URL: https:// ideas.repec.org/p/sdp/sdpwps/57.html.
- [6] Ximena Quintanilla, Isabel Poblete, George G. Vega Yon, et al. Estudio Actuarial de los Fondos del Seguro de Cesantía. Tech. rep. 2013.
- [7] Andrea Repetto and George G. Vega Yon. El Impacto de un Alza en la Cotización Previsional: Pensiones, Salarios y Empleo. Tech. rep. 2013.

### **Books**

"Applied Network Science with R" (on development) https://book.ggv.cl/

"Applied HPC with R" (on development) https://book-hpc.ggv.cl/

# **Software Packages**



- [1] **George G. Vega Yon**. defm: Estimation and simulation of Multi-binary response models (2023).

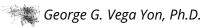
  R package version 0.1.0. URL: https://cran.r-project.org/package=defm.

  downloads 332
- [2] Derek Meyer, **George G. Vega Yon**. *epiworldR: Fast Agent-Based Epi Models* (2023). R package version 0.0-2. URL: https://cran.r-project.org/package=epiworldR.
- [3] **George G. Vega Yon**. aphylo: Statistical Inference of Annotated Phylogenetic Trees (2022). R package version 0.2-1. URL: https://cran.r-project.org/package=aphylo.
- [4] **George G. Vega Yon.** A Flexible and General Agent Based Model Engine (2022). C++ library version 0.0-1. URL: https://github.com/UofUEpiBio/epiworld.
- [5] **George G. Vega Yon**. *netplot: Beautiful graph drawing* (2021). R package version 0.1-1. URL: https://cran.r-project.org/package=netplot.

  downloads 7794
- [6] **George G. Vega Yon**. rgexf: Build, Import and Export GEXF Graph Files (2020). R package version 0.16.0. URL: https://CRAN.R-project.org/package=rgexf.
- [7] **George G. Vega Yon**, Thomas Valente. *netdiffuseR: Analysis of Diffusion and Contagion Processes on Networks* (2020). R package version 1.22.0. URL: https://github.com/USCCANA/netdiffuseR.

  downloads 38K
- [8] **George G. Vega Yon**, Kayla de la Haye. *ergmito: Exponential Random Graph Models for Small Networks* (2020). R package version 0.3-0. URL: https://cran.r-project.org/package=ergmito.
- [9] **George G. Vega Yon**. *slurmR: A Lightweight Wrapper for 'Slurm'* (2020). R package version 0.4-1. URL: https://CRAN.R-project.org/package=slurmR.
- [10] **George G. Vega Yon**. fmcmc: A friendly MCMC framework (2020). R package version 0.3-0. URL: https://CRAN.R-project.org/package=fmcmc.

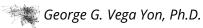
  downloads 21K
- [11] **George G. Vega Yon**. barry: your to-go motif accountant (2020). C++ library version 0.0-1. URL: https://github.com/USCbiostats/barry.
- [12] **George G. Vega Yon**. pruner: Implementing the Felsenstein's Tree Pruning algorithm (2020). C++ library version 0.0-1. URL: https://github.com/USCbiostats/pruner.



- [13] George G. Vega Yon, Brian Quistorff. parallel: Stata Module for Parallel Computing (2019). Stata Module version 1.20.0. URL: https://github.com/gvegayon/parallel.
- [14] George G. Vega Yon. googlePublicData: Working with Google's 'Public Data Explorer' DSPL Metadata Files (2017). R package version 0.16.1. URL: https://CRAN.R-project.org/package= googlePublicData. downloads 43K
- [15] George G. Vega Yon, Enyelbert Mu noz. ABCoptim: Implementation of Artificial Bee Colony (ABC) Optimization (2017). R package version 0.15.0. URL: https://CRAN.R-project.org/package= ABCoptim. downloads 69K
- [16] **George G. Vega Yon**. twitterreport: Out-of-the-box analysis and reporting tools for twitter (2016). R package version 0.16. URL: https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.44528.

### **Conference Talks**

- [1] George G. Vega Yon, Matthew Samore, Karim Khader, et al. "How Network Structure Affects Epidemiological Indicators in ABMs - A Large Simulation Study Featuring Artificial and Realworld Networks". In: INSNA Sunbelt 2023. (conference talk, slides). July 2023.
- [2] Porter Bischoff and George G. Vega Yon. "Visualization tools for network science: Building beautiful graphs with netplot". In: INSNA Sunbelt 2023. (conference poster, slides). June 2023.
- [3] George G. Vega Yon and Derek Meyer. "Simulating Complex Agent-Based Model with epiworldR: A fast and flexible ABM framework". In: INSNA Sunbelt 2023. (conference workshop, slides). June 2023.
- [4] Matthew Samore, George G. Vega Yon, Karim Khader, et al. "The importance of interaction networks in long-term care facilities to reduce the equilibrium prevalence of infectious pathogens". In: Sunbelt 2022. (conference talk). July 2022.
- [5] Kyosuke Tanaka and George G. Vega Yon. "Imaginary Network Motifs: Structural Patterns of False Positives and Negatives in Social Networks". In: 72th Annual Conference of the International Communication Association. (conference talk). May 2022.
- [6] Marie Ouellet, Sadaf Hashimi, and **George G. Vega Yon**. "Network Influence in Officer Firearm Use". In: NETWORKS 2021 - A Joint Sunbelt and NetSci Conference. (conference talk). July 2021.
- [7] George Vega Yon. "Triads, Dyads, and Gene Functions When Social Network Analysis Meets Phylogenetics". In: NETWORKS 2021 - A Joint Sunbelt and NetSci Conference. (conference talk). July 2021.



- [8] George G. Vega Yon, Aileen Dinkjian, Sarah Hamm-Alvarez, et al. "ERGMito Statistical Models for Small Team Social Networks". In: SciTS 2020. (conference talk, slides/video). June 2020.
- [9] George G. Vega Yon, Andrew Slaughter, and Kayla de la Haye. "Exact Statistics and Semi-Parametric Tests for Small Network Data". In: IC2S2, 2019. (conference talk, slides). July 2019.
- [10] George G. Vega Yon, Andrew Slaughter, and Kayla de la Haye. "Exact Statistics and Semi-Parametric Tests for Small Network Data". In: Sunbelt 2019. (conference talk, slides). June 2019.
- [11] George G. Vega Yon and Kayla de la Haye. "Small network statistics for the network science of teams". In: NetSciX 2019, SCL. (conference talk, slides). Jan. 2019.
- [12] George Vega Yon. "Computacion de Alto Rendimiento con R". In: satRday Santiago 2018. (conference workshop, slides). Dec. 2018.
- [13] George G. Vega Yon and Kayla de la Haye. "Big Problems for Small Networks: Small Network Statistics". In: NASN 2018, DC. (conference talk, slides). Nov. 2018.
- [14] George G. Vega Yon, Kayla de la Haye, Hee-sung Shin, et al. "Diffusion of Smoking Initiation Among Diverse, Urban American Adolescents Over The High School Period". In: NASN 2017. (conference talk, slides). July 2017.
- [15] **George G. Vega Yon** and Brian Quistorff. "Uncomplicated Parallel Computing with Stata". In: Stata Conference 2017. (conference talk, slides). July 2017.
- [16] George G. Vega Yon and Thomas W. Valente. "Understanding Diffusion with netdiffuseR". In: NASN 2017. (conference workshop, slides). July 2017.
- [17] George G. Vega Yon and Thomas W. Valente. "Network Diffusion of Innovations in R: Introducing netdiffuseR". In: IC2S2, 2016. (conference poster, slides). June 2016.
- [18] George G. Vega Yon and Thomas W. Valente. "Network Diffusion of Innovations in R: Introducing netdiffuseR". In: useR! 2016. (conference talk, slides/video). June 2016.
- [19] George G. Vega Yon and Thomas W. Valente. "Understanding Diffusion with netdiffuseR". In: Sunbelt Conference, 2016. (conference workshop, slides/video). Mar. 2016.
- [20] George Vega Yon. "Just tired of endless loops! or parallel: Stata module for parallel computing". In: Stata Conference, 2013. (conference talk, slides). July 2013.

# **Invited Speaker**

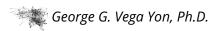
[1] "Power and multicollinearity in small networks: A discussion of "Tale of Two Datasets: Representativeness and Generalisability of Inference for Samples of Networks" by Krivitsky, Coletti & Hens". In: Joint Statistical Meetings, 2023. (invited talk, slides). Aug. 2023.



- [2] "Network visualization (in R) with "netplot" and motif counting (in C++) with "barry". In: SCI Seminar. (invited talk, slides). Apr. 2023.
- [3] "Prediction of Gene Functions by Leveraging Biological Insights with Mechanistic Machine Learning". In: University of Utah Data Science Seminar. (invited talk, slides/video). Jan. 2023.
- [4] "Triadas, lazos y funciones genéticas: cuando las redes sociales y la filogenética se encuentran". In: Seminario de Data Science. (invited talk, slides/video). May 2021.
- [5] "Triads, Dyads, and Gene Functions When Social Network Analysis Meets Phylogenetics". In: Computational Cancer Genomics Working Group Evening Lecture. (invited talk, slides/video). Mar. 2021.
- [6] ""Predicción de funciones genéticas utilizando evidencia experimental y árboles filogenéticos: Un modelo evolutivo" o "Ciencia de datos en la práctica"". In: PUC Mathematical and Computational Engineering Seminars. (invited talk, slides). Apr. 2020.
- [7] "A Brief Introduction to Using R for High-Performance Computing". In: Orange County R Users Group. (invited talk, slides/video). Aug. 2019.
- [8] "Big Problems for Small Networks: Statistical Analysis of Small Networks and Team Performance". In: UCI Social Network Research Group. (invited talk, slides). Apr. 2019.
- [9] "Big Problems for Small Networks: Statistical Analysis of Small Networks and Team Performance". In: SONIC Speaker. (invited talk, slides/video). Mar. 2019.
- [10] "Estadística de Redes y Econometría Espacial (con R)". In: IMFD Summer School. (invited talk, slides/video). Dec. 2018.

### Other Talks

- [1] "Mechanistic Machine Learning". In: MInD2.0 Visit Harvard. (talk, slides). May 2023.
- [2] "A Crash course on git". In: Happy Scientist Seminar. (workshop, slides/video). Mar. 2021.
- [3] "HPC with Slurm, R, and the slurmR R package". In: Happy Scientist Seminar. (workshop, slides/video). Feb. 2021.
- [4] "Essays on Bioinformatics and Social Network Analysis: Statistical and Computational Methods for Complex Systems". In: Doctoral Defense. (talk, slides). June 2020.
- [5] "Essays on Bioinformatics and Social Network Analysis Statistical and Computational Methods for Complex Systems". In: Biostats Seminars. (talk, slides/video). Jan. 2020.
- [6] "slurmR workshop". In: Happy Scientist Semminar Series. (workshop, slides). Jan. 2020.
- [7] "Happy Scientist Seminar: Research Pipelines". In: Happy Scientist Seminar. (talk, slides). Oct. 2019.



- [8] "What drives social networks? A gentle introduction to exponential random graph models (with a focus on small networks)". In: East LA R User Group. (talk, slides). June 2019.
- [9] "Overview of Social Network Models". In: (talk, slides). Dec. 2018.
- [10] "A brief introduction to using R for high-performance computing". In: East LA R User Group. (talk, slides). Nov. 2018.
- [11] "R Bootcamp for Scientific Computing 2018". In: R Bootcamp for Scientific Computing. (workshop, slides). Aug. 2018.
- [12] "Intro to R". In: USC's HPCC workshop. (workshop, slides). July 2018.
- [13] "Introduction to R (for HPC users)". In: USC's HPCC workshop. (workshop, slides). July 2018.
- [14] "Reproducible Research". In: Health Behavior Research Students talk. (talk, slides). Sept. 2016.

### **Teaching**

### (PHS 7045) Advanced Programming with R and HPC

Fall 2022

The University of Utah, USA Co-instructor, PHS Ph.D. Program

### (PM 566) Introduction to Health Data Science

Fall 2021

University of Southern California, USA Instructor, Masters of Science in Public Health Data Science

#### (PM 566) Introduction to Health Data Science

Fall 2020

University of Southern California, USA Co-instructor, Masters of Science in Public Health Data Science

### **Statistical Computing with Stata**

First semester 2012

Universidad Adolfo Ibáñez, Chile Instructor, Masters in Economics and Public Policy

### **Introduction to Economics**

First semester 2012

Universidad Adolfo Ibáñez, Chile Co-instructor, B.A. in Business Administration

Microeconomics Second semester 2012

Universidad Adolfo Ibáñez, Chile Co-instructor, B.A. in Business Administration

#### **Introduction to Economics**

First semester 2011



Universidad Adolfo Ibáñez, Chile Co-instructor, B.A. in Business Administration

### **Mentoring/Advising**

**Qualifying Exam chair and Member, Ph.D. Dissertation Committee Member (2022–Present),** Katherine Lawson Michod, University of Utah, Population Health Sciences, Clinical and Translational Epidemiology Ph.D. program.

**Ph.D. Dissertation Committee Member (2023–Present),** Eric Anto, University of Utah, Population Health Sciences, Biostatistics Ph.D. program.

**Mentor**, **RA** (Summer 2023), Porter Bischoff, University of Utah + Utah Valley University, Summer Program for Undergraduate Research (SPUR), Network Visualization using R.

**Supervisor, RA (2022–Present)**, Derek Meyer, University of Utah, Population Health Science, Agent-Based Models for Epidemics.

**Mentor**, **(2022–Present)**, Jacqueline M. Kent-Marvik, University of Utah, Nursing School, Ph.D. Health Sciences, Network Science and Social Network Analysis.

Mentor, (2022), Luis Lopez, NIH, Postbac program, Exponential-Family Random Graph Models.

### Honors and Services to the Profession

### Manuscript Review (Ad Hoc)

Journal of the American Statistical Association
The Official Journal of The Society for Computational Economics
The R Journal
The Stata Journal
Social Networks
Journal of Mathematical Sociology
Computer Methods and Programs in Biomedicine Update
Journal of Open Source Software
Bioinformatics

#### **Abstract Review**

International Conference on Computational Social Science (2019–2021) SUNBELT Conference (2016)

George G. Vega Yon, Ph.D.

Panelist/Discussant

"JASA A&CS Special Invited Session: A Tale of Two Datasets – Representativeness and Generalis-

11

ability of Inference for Samples of Networks", Joint Statistical Meetings (JSM), August 2023.

"Social Network Diffusion of Individual Behavior Change Interventions Virtual Workshop", National

Institute on Aging Division of Behavioral and Social Research (NIA BSR), March 2022.

**Book Review** 

"Microeconometrics and Matlab: An Introduction", by Adams, Clarke and Quinn, Oxford University

Press, 2015.

"Mastering Gephi Network Visualization", by Ken Cherven, Packt Publishing, 2015.

"Network Graph Analysis and Visualization with Gephi", by Ken Cherven, Packt Publishing, 2013.

Misc

Core member of the "University of Utah's Center for Data Science" (2023–Present)

Lead of "Network Science and Social Network Analysis at the U (NetSNAU)" research group (2022-

Present)

Member of "Center for Applied Network Analysis (CANA) at USC" research group (2016–Present)

Co-organizer of the USC Networks Meeting (2020, 2021)

Founder of the (first) R Users Group in Chile (2013)

Co-organizer of the East LA R User Group (LAERUG).

Software

R, C++, LT-X, SQL, XML, regex, Stata+Mata, VBA, Gephi, Pajek, Mathematica, MS Suit, Git, Unix,

Docker, Visual Studio Code

last update: September 26, 2023

https://ggvy.cl